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SUBJECT: KARACHIITES PROTEST ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GAZA

¶1. (SBU) Summary: On January 11, a group of protestors estimated to number at least 700, gathered to express disapproval of recent Israeli military actions in Gaza. Police clashed with the demonstrators and were able to disperse the crowd before they approached the Consulate. Further protests against the actions in Gaza have been announced for January 12 and 18. End Summary

¶2. (SBU) Early in the evening of January 11, an estimated 700 men gathered in the vicinity of Abdullah Haroon Road intending to march toward the United States Consulate in protest of recent Israeli military actions in Gaza. The group was stopped by Pakistani police one kilometer from the Consulate.

NOTE: The Prime Minister of Pakistan, on a visit to Sindh, was staying in the State Guest House located adjacent to the U.S. Consulate, at the time of demonstration. END NOTE.

¶3. (SBU) During the brief clash that followed, police used tear gas and fired weapons into the air in order to disperse the crowd. Four persons, including one police officer were injured in the scuffle. The protestors dispersed shortly following the use of tear gas.

¶4. (SBU) On January 12, the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Women's wing announced it will hold a protest at Quaid's Mausoleum on M.A. Jinnah road against Israeli actions against the Palestinians at 3:00 p.m. The rally will be led by Aisha Munawar and Durdana Siddiqui and will be addressed by JI President Karachi, Mohammad Hussain Mehenti and Vice president JI, Prof. Ghafoor Ahmed.

¶5. (SBU) On Sunday, January 18, Jamaat-i-Islami will hold a pro-Palestinian rally, to be led by JI chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmed. It is anticipated that many of religious parties of the city will participate. The demonstrators will march from the Mausoleum to the Tibet Center on M.A. Jinnah Road.

¶6. (SBU) As occurred on January 11, and in previous demonstrations, we do not believe that authorities will allow either demonstration to approach the Consulate. Nevertheless, we will monitor the progress of each demonstration to ensure there will be no surprises.

FAKAN